

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01855 241328Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-13 EUR-12 /111 W  
-----039675 241815Z /47  
R 241305Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8151  
INFO USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1855

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, MPOL, CU, ET  
SUBJECT: MENGISTU'S VISIT TO CUBA

1. ETHIOPIA'S WEEKEND PRESS (APRIL 22-23) GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE AND PUBLICITY TO MENGISTU'S CURRENT VISIT TO CUBA. ARTICLES RANGE FROM DESCRIPTION OF MENGISTU'S ARRIVAL, "HE RECEIVED WARMEST WELCOME EVER OFFERED TO ANY LEADER," TO SELF-CONGRATULATORY ARTICLES CLAIMING "CUBA MASS MEDIA PRAISES ETHIOPIA'S MILITANCY," AND BACKGROUND ARTICLES ON THE CUBAN REVOLUTION AND ECONOMY--WHICH, BY ALL ACCOUNTS, IS APPARENTLY BOOMING.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NO INDICATIONS WERE GIVEN IN PUBLIC COVERAGE AS TO THE TRUE NATURE OF MENGISTU'S VISIT TO CUBA NOR TO ISSUES WHICH WERE TO BE DISCUSSED, IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT THE PRIMARY TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WILL BE QUESTION OF CUBAN COMBAT INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOLUTION OF THE ERITREAN PROBLEM. ALL INDICATIONS HERE ARE THAT MENGISTU WAS NOT WHOLLY SUCCESSFUL IN HIS MOSCOW PRESENTATIONS AND THAT CURRENT TRIP MIGHT BE ATTEMPT TO OVERCOME CUBAN RELUCTANCE TO BECOME IN-  
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VOLVED IN AN INTERNAL GUERRILLA WAR. WITHOUT SOVIET BACKING, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR MENGISTU TO PERSUADE CASTRO TO INCREASE HIS INVOLVEMENT IN ERITREA. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT CUBA WILL ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE BETWEEN MENGISTU AND THE ERITREANS AS WE HAVE SEEN SOME REPORTS INDICATING THAT LEADERS OF TWO OF THE ERITREAN MOVEMENTS ARE ALSO NOW IN CUBA.

MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: ADDIS ABABA 1855 NOT PASSED HORN OF AFRICA  
COLLECTIVE.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014